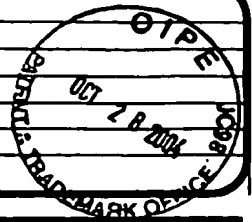


Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: October 28, 2004 (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
Application Number		09/826,804			
Filing Date		04/06/2001			
First Named Inventor		Masaomi TAKAGI			
Group Art Unit		3616			
Examiner Name		E. Culbreth			
Attorney Docket Number		040679-1246			



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
EC	A1	5,862,877 ✓		HORTON ET AL.	01-26-1999	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
EC	A2	JP	11-333527 ✓	A	NISSAN MOTOR CO., LTD.	12-07-1999		Abst.
	A3	JP	11-192964 ✓	A	NISSAN MOTOR CO., LTD.	07-21-1999		Abst.
	A4	JP	11-222152 ✓	A	KOBE STEEL LTD.	08-17-1999		Abst.
	A5	JP	8-168814 ✓	A	FURUKAWA ELECTRIC CO., LTD., ET AL.	07-02-1996		Abst.
	A6	JP	9-309479 ✓	A	HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD.	12-02-1997		Abst.
EC	A7	JP	10-510777 ✓	A	COSWMA INT. INC.	10-20-1998		Abst.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.		T ⁶

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
Eric Culbreth	11/3/05

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 18 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.